investment in the down stream industries and employment generation; and

(h) what is the estimated cost per 1000 cubic meter gas and its proposed sale price from Oman-Gujarat gas pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The estimated production of natural gas in the current and the next year are as follows:

1993-94	1994-95
49.57 MMSCMD	52.98 MMSCMD

(b) and (d) to (h) An Expert Group has been constituted to examine the proposal of the Omanese Government to lay a gas pipeline at their cost. Other details will be known only after a detailed feasibility report is completed by them.

(c) The registered demand of 240 MMSCMD cannot be met fully by the end of the Eighth Plan.

Allotment of Stalls in Western and Northern Railways

1797. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of stalls which have been alloted at various stations in the country particularly in Western and Northern Railways during 1991-92 and 1992-93 and as on date;

(b) if so, the names and owners of the stall Holders and the number of applications received by Government for seeking allotment of Railway stalls;

(c) the criteria fixed for allotment of Railway stalls to the general public and whether there is any special scheme for Ex-servicemen, SC/ST and widows; and

(d) the number of stalls likely to be allotted by the end of 1993 in each State Railway Station for particular items will the figure of State-wise stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K C. LENKA): (a) The year-wise break-up of stalls allotted on Western and Northern Railways is as under:—

Period	Western	Northern
1991-92	9	8
1992-93	25	49
April 1993 onwards	12	17

(b) Details of the licencees are given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix CLXIX Annexure No. *43.*]. About 540 applications/representations were received.

(c) The basic criteria is capability, reputation, experience and track record of the party to provide requisite standard of food and service to the passengers. Preference is given to SC/ST candidates for allotment of catering/vending licences at small and roadside stations.

(d) State-wise date is not maintained.

Replacement of Steam Locomotives by Diesel Locomotives

1798. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MEERA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI G.G. SWELL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ever after replacing steam-based locomotives by diesel-run locomotives, trains have not reduced the time of the journeys;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Rajkot-Ahmedabad intercity-train takes the same travel time today when it is run on diesel-based locomotives as before it was used to take when steam-based locomotive was used on this track; and